

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Public Safety Committee** was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2012 in Room 200, Northern Building, 305 East Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Present: Patrick Buckley, Bill Clancy, Andy Nicholson, Tim Carpenter, Guy Zima
Also Present: Susan Tilot, Assistant DA Dana Johnson, Sheriff Gossage, Karl Fleury, Troy Streckenbach, Cullen Peltier

I. Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Buckley at 5:30 p.m.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of May 2 and May 16, 2012.

Motion made by Supervisor Carpenter, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

1. Review Minutes of:

- a. Criminal Justice Coordinating Board (April 24, 2012)
- b. Emergency Medical Services Council (March 21, 2012 & May 16, 2012)
- c. Fire Investigation Task Force (March 1, 2012)
- d. Local Emergency Planning Committee (March 13, 2012)

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to take Items 1a-d together. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file Items 1a-d. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Communications:

2. Communication from Supervisor Buckley re: Sheriff's Department to take the lead on a combined services study (Metro Policing) for Brown County. *Referred from May County Board.*

Supervisor Buckley stated that he would like to see a committee formed consisting of a couple of supervisors, a couple department heads, perhaps a lay person from the public and anybody else that County Executive Troy Streckenbach may have in mind to take a look at some of the past studies that have been done as well as come up with options for the future. He felt that with the budget the way it is, it will become necessary to explore some options.

Supervisor Clancy commented that the first thing to do would be figure out what the cost savings would be with going to metro policing and then figure out how to do away with the turf battles. Buckley agreed and stated that his intention was to have the committee formed and then put together a presentation as to what the potential cost savings and issues would be. From there a determination could be made to expound on the idea

further if it looked like it may be workable. Buckley continued that it was possible that there would be a budget deficit this year at the County level and he felt it would be irresponsible to not at least try to come up with options for different areas of the County.

Sheriff Gossage stated that he is willing to look at any ideas regarding consolidating efforts in an attempt to save the taxpayer dollars. He also stated that he has already met with former Green Bay Police Chief Jim Arts to discuss different possibilities and he will relate the proposals to this Committee once they are established. He also stated that as an elected official he will not sit on the committee, but he will assign a representative of the Sheriff's Office. Buckley stated that if anyone had any recommendations or thoughts as to who to include on the committee they should contact him as soon as possible.

Clancy thought that perhaps if the word gets out to the outlying areas that this idea is being proposed and if cost savings could be realized along with better coverage, then it may be well received. Buckley agreed and felt that perhaps one or more supervisors from the outlying areas would want to sit in on the committee along with supervisors from the metro area. Supervisor Carpenter also was in favor of forming a committee to analyze this further.

Gossage also stated that he will find the PERF study from 2003 and will provide it to the Committee. Buckley suggested that Supervisor Nicholson check with the City of Green Bay to see what their plans are for looking for a new Chief of Police when Jim Arts leaves and maybe now would be a good time to see if we could work together.

Clancy was in favor of putting a committee together to figure out the pros and cons and if there are more pros than cons, he felt there was a good chance of this being successful. Communications Director Karl Fleury relayed that he had done a paper on this subject in a class he had taken and found that initially there typically are not savings when you go with a metropolitan police department because of all of the blending that needs to be done. Items such as uniforms, vehicles, equipment and service weapons all need to be considered and standardized. Savings are realized down the road through attrition and other areas which would produce long term savings. The area that would generate savings would be duplication of services, such as mechanics, records systems, and accident reconstruction stations as well as service vehicles. He also stated that you would have to look at blending employee contracts and see if savings could be realized in that area.

Guy Zima arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Supervisor Zima commented that this is not the first time this idea has been proposed and that attempts had been made in the past to combine efforts and find efficiencies. Buckley stated that there are several working models that could be used but he is most interested in what fits best for Brown County and what villages and municipalities may be interested. Before getting to that point, however, the costs and cost benefits need to be examined and then it would be up to the villages or municipalities to advise of their interest. Buckley stated that the budgets are going to dictate having to do something and stated that nobody wants to pay more in taxes.

Zima agreed that everyone wants more efficiencies and Buckley said it goes further than that. He stated that you have to be innovative and try different ideas to achieve things. We are at a point where services may need to be cut and it is time to figure out a way to still provide quality service to the taxpayers at an efficient cost. Zima felt that a decent job had been done at maintaining a reasonable level of services and pointed out that services such as the Drug Task Force have also been added. He felt that the major cuts have already come in the form of reduction of state aids.

Zima asked Gossage if there were any areas where he felt services could be combined that may be cost beneficial and stated that that is something that should always be looked at. Zima also stated that Brown

County has an excellent Sheriff and he knows that he brings a great deal of experience to the department and is a hard worker and forward thinking. Zima had confidence in what the Sheriff would bring forward on this issue. He did wish to caution, however, that sometimes there are negatives to enlarging things and many times the bigger things get the more inefficient they get. Zima stated that sometimes people do not like services forced upon them that they do not necessarily want.

Zima continued that the point he wished to make is that there are municipalities that provide different services and different levels of different services. If this would all come under one roof, then there would be a "one model fits all" situation that everyone would need to accept and sometimes those costs for the municipalities go up and sometimes they are getting services that they do not want or need.

Motion made by Supervisor Carpenter, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to refer to Sheriff to form a committee. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Communication from Supervisor Buckley re: Would like Mr. Miller from the Airport to come to Public Safety Committee and give an update on funding for the Sheriff's Deputy to be stationed at the Airport. *Referred from May County Board.***

Buckley informed the Committee that Airport Director Tom Miller was in a conference this week in California and therefore was unable to attend this meeting.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to hold for one month. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Safety Communications

4. **Budget Status Financial Reports, March and April, 2012.**

Communications Director Karl Fleury reported that his department is tracking according to budget. When asked, Fleury stated that he did not foresee any budget issues but there are overtime costs because of staffing but these are offset by savings in salaries from open positions.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Director's Report.**

Fleury reported that they had two new employees start on May 29 and they currently have three full-time and two part-time positions open. He is in the process of interviewing for these positions at this time.

With regard to the radio project, work has begun on the Town of Scott site and work also is continuing on the other sites. He also indicated that he has a meeting scheduled with Hobart for June 12 to secure the conditional use permit for the tower there. Carpenter indicated that he will be at the meeting with Hobart on June 12 but he did not anticipate any problems.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sheriff:

6. Budget Status Financial Report, April, 2012.

Sheriff Gossage said the Sheriff's Department is currently tracking under budget. Overtime costs in the jail are significantly under budget because kilo pod remains closed and they are running very efficiently with their 78 people on the electronic monitoring program. The jail is currently at 86 percent capacity. Gossage also stated that they have redirected some of the Court staff which has resulted in a 24% reduction from the prior year.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Zima to receive and place on file. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Sheriff's Report.

Gossage reported that they currently have two vacancies for corrections officers and two for patrol officers, but they will be hiring two patrol officers and a corrections officer shortly. Gossage also stated he would like the Drug Task Force to make a presentation to the Public Safety Committee to give an update on the prescription drug agent position as this position is currently nearing the end of its three year grant. Gossage would like statistical information provided to the Committee to allow them to make a decision with regard to funding this position. Chair Buckley encouraged a presentation at the next meeting.

Gossage also provided an update on the Drug Task Force and stated that they made 78 arrests in May which is a record. Typically there are 40 – 50 arrests per month. He stated that this increase is in direct correlation to prescription drug usage and heroin.

Zima asked how many of the arrests referred to were for possession and how many were for selling. Gossage did not have a specific breakdown but stated that they have had a lot of investigations recently concerning heroin including a large bust that far surpassed the amount of heroin seized in all of last year. Zima thought it may be helpful to make public the names of people convicted of drug use. Buckley also stated that he would like a report on asset seizures by the Drug Task Force and Gossage stated that this can be provided. Zima stated that he had recently learned that the use of prescription drugs is continuing to be on the rise and wondered if there was something that could be done through the medical society on this, such as asking doctors to be more thorough in examinations before drugs are prescribed. Gossage stated that the prescription drug agent is working on things like this and will give an updated report on what their efforts have been during their presentation.

Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Emergency Management:

8. County/Tribal Directors of Emergency Management Semi Annual Report, October, 2011 – March, 2012.

Emergency Management Director Cullen Peltier stated that this is a copy of a letter received from Wisconsin Emergency Management in regard to the annual EMPG and EPCRA grants. Peltier thought it would be a good idea to bring this to Public Safety so the Committee can get an idea of some of the things that have been done in the past six months and see that we have gotten the grants approved for this portion of the year.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Circuit Courts, Commissioners, Probate

9. Budget Status Financial Reports, March and April, 2012.

Motion made by Supervisor Carpenter, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Medical Examiner – No agenda items.

Clerk of Courts – No agenda items.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Carpenter to take the Medical Examiner and Clerk of Courts together and receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

District Attorney – No agenda items.

Although the District Attorneys' office did not have any agenda items, Supervisor Zima asked for an update on what is happening in the DA's office. Assistant DA Dana Johnson stated that the first floor of their building is currently vacant since the Sheriff's Department has relocated. Hopefully within the next 2 – 3 months the DA's office will be moving to the first floor. He also reported that they were doing pretty well in keeping up with prosecuting the drug cases and one of the reasons he felt this was happening was because the County Board provided them with the extra position. Zima stated that he would like to see a breakdown of drug arrests and Buckley stated that the DA's office had provided breakdowns in the past and he felt that some of this information could be presented at the next meeting along with the presentation by the prescription drug officers.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Zima to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

10. Audit of bills.

Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**11. Such other matters as authorized by law.
Set date and time for July meeting (current schedule falls on July 4, 2012).**

A discussion was held with regard to the July meeting as the first Wednesday of the month will fall on the 4th of July. Zima proposed doing the meeting as committee of the whole before the full County Board since the prescription drug officers will be making their presentation. It was decided to have the prescription drug presentation presented to the entire Board at the July 18 full County Board meeting and if there were any other issues that needed to be handled, this could be done at a special meeting preceding the full County Board meeting.

Motion made by Supervisor Carpenter, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to adjourn at 6:22 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Giannunzio, Recording Secretary